AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims.

1. (New) Polyester resin comprising at least 85 Mol-% of polyethylene terephthalate and at least 0.01 Mol-%, but not more than 5.00 Mol-% of units of the formula (I)

$$\begin{bmatrix}
0 & 0 \\
A & 0
\end{bmatrix}$$

$$SO_3^-M^+$$

wherein

$$A = \begin{cases} A & \text{or} \\ C_nH_{2n-1} \end{cases}$$

wherein n is an integer from 3 to 10 and

wherein

M* is an alkali metal ion, earth alkali metal ion, phosphonium ion

or ammonium ion and the polyester contains < 5.0 wt.-% of diethylene glycol and wherein the polyester contains Na_2HPO_4 in an amount such that the phosphor content is 10 to 200 ppm (based on the weight of the polyester) and wherein the polyester is either free of or does not contain more than 9 ppm of NaH_2PO_4 , and

wherein the intrinsic viscosity is 0.6 to 1.0.

- 3. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein A = 1.
- 4. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 2, wherein the attachments to the phenyl ring are in 1-, 3- and 5-position and the attachment to the naphthyl ring are in 2-, 4- and 6-position.
- 5. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein M⁺ is Li⁺, Na⁺ or K⁺.

- 6. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein the Na₂HPO₄ (disodium monohydrogenphosphate) is in the form of the dodeca-hydrate (•12 H₂O).
- 7. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, further comprising <10 Mol-% of modifying agents.
- 8. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein the NSR is <10.
- 9. (New) Polyester resin according to claim 1, wherein the half time of crystallization is > 150 sec at 200°C.
- 10. (New) Method of manufacturing a polyester resin according to claim 1, comprising the steps of
 - a) reacting terephthalic acid (TA) or C₁-C₄-dialkyl terephthalate; and ethylene glycol (EG); and at least 0.01, but not more than 5.00 Mol-% of a compound according to formula (II):

wherein R is hydrogen, a C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or a C_1 - C_4 -hydroxyalkyl and M and \bigcirc have the meaning given in claim 1 for formula (I) and

b) subjecting the reaction product of a) to a polycondensation reaction to form the polymer.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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